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the best situations for obtaining moisture. In all cases when the Peronosporæ flourished it was with succulent herbs, and even with these there was probably less growth of the parasite, and sometimes a greater manifestation of disease, due to lack of resisting power in the host; so that these instances are no exception to the rule that dry weather is not advantageous for the growth of the Peronosporæ.

*Botanical Laboratory, Ames, Iowa.*

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## BRIEFER ARTICLES.

**Heinrich Anton DeBary.**—Heinrich Anton DeBary, professor of botany in the University of Strassburg, and editor of the "*Botanische Zeitung*," died in Strassburg, after a long severe illness, on the 19th day of January.<sup>1</sup>

Professor DeBary was born in Frankfort-on-the-Main on the 26th of January, 1831. He completed the course of study at the Gymnasium of that city, subsequently studied medicine at the universities of Heidelberg, Marburg and Berlin, and in the year 1853 entered upon the practice of medicine in his native city. During his university studies his natural inclination led him to devote much attention to botany, and it was particularly through the influence of the admirable and thorough instruction of Alexander Braun, then professor of botany at the university of Berlin, that he became specially interested in the science, which he afterward pursued with such eminent success.

In the year 1854, or when but twenty-three years of age, he became instructor (*Docent*) in botany at the university of Tübingen, and in the following year (1855) he was appointed professor of botany at the university of Freiburg in Baden, where he remained until 1867, when he accepted a similar position at the university at Halle, and in 1872 he was called to the chair of botany in the then newly opened German university of Strassburg, which position he occupied at the time of his death.

The first botanical researches of DeBary, which were published before entering upon his career as a teacher, were entitled "*Beitrag zur Kenntniss der Achlya prolifera, Zygomyceten Familie der Pilze*" (in 1852), and "*Untersuchungen über die Brandpilze und die durch sie verursachten Krankheiten der Pflanzen*" (in 1853). Among his larger and most widely known works may be enumerated the following: "*Beiträge zur Morphologie und Physiologie der Pilze*," in five parts (1864 to 1882), "*Vergleichende Anatomie der Vegetationsorgane der Phanerogamen*

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<sup>1</sup> Our notice of DeBary's death in the preceding number, taken from *Pharm. Runds.*, is corrected as above by the announcement in *Botanische Zeitung* for January 27.—Eds.]

und Farne" (1877), "Vergleichende Morphologie und Biologie der Pilze, Mycetozoen, und Bakterien" (1882), and "Vorlesungen über Bakterien" (1885). Several of these works have been translated into English or other languages, and are well known to American botanists. In addition thereto, DeBary has published a very large number of special monographs; and the many valuable contributions from his pen contained in the "Botanische Zeitung," which has been so ably edited by him since the year 1866, also reflect the accurate and painstaking investigations of this talented and renowned scientist.

As a teacher Professor DeBary was characterized by great clearness of expression, and the facility which he possessed for demonstrating the subjects of his lectures by crayon sketches or impromptu drawings. His reputation as an investigator had long extended far beyond the limits of his native land, and for many years students and teachers of botany from distant countries, including many Americans, were attracted to his laboratory. In his relations with students, or in conducting examinations, Professor DeBary was always just and considerate, and in social intercourse he was most amiable; but on no occasion was his genial temperament more manifest than on the frequent botanical excursions which he was accustomed to make with his pupils during the spring and summer to the adjacent fields and forests, the more extended rambles in the Vosges and Black Forest, or the occasional visit to some alpine peak of Switzerland.

In his death, preceding by a few days that of his eminent friend Dr. Gray, the scientific world has lost one of its noblest and most distinguished representatives, and on this side of the ocean, as well as in other lands, his memory will long be cherished and his name revered.

F. B. POWER.

**Testimonial to Dr. Asa Gray.**—At the regular meeting of the Hamilton Literary and Scientific Association held in their rooms, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, February 9, 1888, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, This association has heard with deepest sorrow of the death of Dr. Asa Gray;

Resolved, That, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, there be transmitted to his family a record of our profound regret at such a calamity to the botanical world. That in his life he furnished a shining example of devotion to science and thoroughness of investigation which will always command our admiration and respect, and that, though of another nationality, we cherish and revere his memory, inseparably interwoven not only with American botany, but with the development of botanical science itself.

T. J. W. B.

**A satisfactory ruling at last.**—The following letter explains itself, and its contents will prove highly satisfactory to all naturalists who wish to transmit specimens by mail: